From: Kelley, Craig
To: malcolm slavin
Subject: RE: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement
Date: Monday, April 16, 2018 4:03:00 PM

The agenda does not get posted until the Thursday before a Council meeting, Malcom. I don't know which Councilor might put this on the agenda as an item to be spoken about and possibly voted on but I suppose one of us might do it. That gives people Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday to communicate with Councilors on this issue, to include coming to speak at City Council.

If you'd like to come talk about this Council issue at City Council, you can sign up by phone between 9 AM and 3 PM on Monday at 617-349-4280 or on line via this link and in person from 5-6 PM at the Sullivan Chambers at City Hall. Public comment, limited to three minutes per speaker, starts at 5:30(ish) and lasts at least until 6:00, though if there are enough speakers we often go later. I think that will be the case whenever this issue comes to us (assuming it does). At the end of public comment, people who missed the sign-in window are generally asked if they'd like to speak anyway. The entire Council may be emailed at Council@Cambridgema.gov.

Thanks.

Craig

From: malcolm slavin [mailto:malslavin@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 3:42 PM
To: Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
Subject: Re: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement

dear councilor kelly,
thank you for your response.

wondering, why is there no time to openly view and debate the resolution before the council meeting?

may i participate in any earlier conversations about it? i have worked in north africa (tunisia, home of arab spring) and published about the middle east.

i have also studied and followed the BDS movement in some depth.

i certainly agree that there is much to criticize on both sides of the palestinian/israeli issue. but what is crucial is that any official stand must fully reflect that complexity.

thank you, again, for your response.
dr. malcolm owen slavin
112 lake view ave
cambridge, ma.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 16, 2018, at 3:19 PM, Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

Thanks for your note, Malcolm.

I know next to nothing about this except that I am being bombarded with emails from people who seem to know more and I found a flyer at the Kennedy School two weeks ago. I am meeting with pro and con folks this week and next to learn more.

Not having seen the resolution, which won't be officially posted until the Thursday before the Council meeting, I cannot say anything with surety except that I will not support an attempt to delegitimize Israel although I could be supportive of something that expresses concerns over some of Israel's policies without singling them out as the only nation in the world with problematic policies.

I also think this is a lousy way to manipulate local government. If we want to take stances on good and bad in the world, and arguably we should, it only seems fair that we do so via some agreed upon criteria that does not single out specific entities for the sake of political expedience.

But like I said, I actually have not seen anything for the Council yet so my opinion is not well informed.

Craig